

**Remarks**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants again acknowledge with gratitude the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 15, 18, 20, and 21. Accordingly, the claims have been amended solely to expedite allowance of the application. Claims 1 and 6 have each been amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in previously-dependent claim 21. Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claims 14 and 15. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 18. Claims 20 and 21 have each been amended to independent form and incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 19. Claims 1 and 3-7 have been amended to more fully comply with U.S. practice. Claims 14, 15, 18, and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 8, and 9 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 3-7, 10-13, 16, 17, 20, and 21 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 20, and 21 are independent. Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

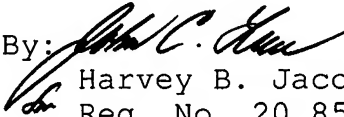
In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an

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interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to  
contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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